

Newly Established CERT Central Group

We're off to a great start with staffing our CERT Central group with CERT Program graduates. To date, we have 7 members, including; Bob Booth, Fran & Frank Filice, Liesa Fenton, Anton Lee, Hank Redmond and Dan Snyder. It is expected that this group will grow to over 25 members by the end of this year (we'll keep you posted). The CERT Central is an excellent resource for dispatching our CERT-trained residents to neighborhoods requiring the most help during times of major emergencies. As is the case with our already established neighborhood groups (Belwood, Monte Sereno and Wedgewood), the Central group members will be required to provide their own protective equipment; the LG/MS CERT Program will augment the groups with the basic supplies and equipment for providing medical assistance, performing light search & rescue operations, damage assessment, as well as establishing a radio communications link between/ among our neighborhoods and the Town's Emergency Operations Center. In order to facilitate these group's mobility during times of emergency, each member will be provided with a photo ID card signifying their status as a Disaster Service Worker.

If you are a CERT Program graduate and interested in joining the Central group, either e-mail or call the CERT Program Office and you will be added to the list. You will be required to participate in our periodic training sessions in order to maintain your skills as a CERT member. This is an excellent opportunity for those CERTs who are waiting for a group to form in their respective neighborhoods.

Next Neighborhood Meeting – Tuesday, July 11th at 7 pm in the Neighborhood Center. The agenda includes: (1) A display of the recommended Command Post equipment for our neighborhood and central groups. (2) A simulated disaster response exercise. This will be an interactive exercise among our various groups that will instruct the CERT responders on how they will be notified, what they should do before they respond, what to bring and where to show up when "answering the call" when disaster strikes. (3) Issuing our wallet-size, CERT – Responder Guides that contain a summary of what we all learned in our training classes. (4) Distributing the SC County Dept. of Public Health's Pocket Guide on preparing for and responding to a pan flu epidemic.

Next CERT Training Class – We will be continuing our training classes in September. The evening sessions are: Tues. 9/12, Tues. 9/19, Thurs. 9/21, Tues. 9/26, and Thurs. 9/28 from 7–10pm. The Sat. sessions are from 9 am till 1 pm on 9/16 and 9/30. If you have neighbors who are interested in the training, encourage them to register on line or call our office number as early as possible because the class is already half full.

A Note of Thanks – Our last neighborhood meeting (5/16) was attended by 30 of our dedicated CERT members. This was an excellent turnout, especially when we consider the competition our CERT members had with other meetings, America Idol finals and NHL playoffs. Again, we appreciate all of our member's dedication to this community service and hope to see all of you at the July meeting.

Downloading the Newsletter – We know that a few of our CERTs had problems downloading the last Newsletter. If any of you experience this same difficulty, let us know and we'll remedy the situation as fast as we can.